

Becks Pond

25.6 acres

Bear

Largemouth bass were present in good numbers. The majority of the fish were 4 to 8 inches but increasing numbers of 8 to 15 inch bass are evident. An occasional trophy also is possible and average weights are excellent. Large schools of largemouth bass fry were observed during sampling in 2011 indicating strong reproduction. Black crappie were few in number but most were of moderate size (9 to 12 inches). Both black and white crappie are present here with white crappie usually larger. Bluegill have become more abundant with excellent average weights and a few larger fish. Strong year classes indicate an increasing population. Occasional yellow perch are caught by anglers familiar with the pond.



This is a popular pond due to its location within the heavily populated New Castle County. Development within the watershed has resulted in some water quality problems due to a thick layer of sediment on the pond bottom. A Becks Pond Work Group was initiated in 2000 with representatives from state, federal, and county agencies plus local residents to address this issue [www.fw.delaware.gov/Info/FisheriesResearch.htm, click on *Becks Pond*]. The Work Group determined that removal of the sediment layer is warranted and planning activities are being conducted to facilitate this process. An informational brochure has been developed and is available upon request (302-735-8658).

Northern snakehead fish were documented in this pond in August 2011 after an adult fish protecting a school of fry struck at a kayaker. Additional adults and schools of fry were observed during subsequent electrofishing. This fish can negatively affect the fish population of Becks Pond. It is considered an invasive species and should be removed and killed if caught. Contact the Division (302-739-9914) if you believe you have caught one and hold it for retrieval.



It is illegal to transport, possess, purchase, or sell **live** northern snakehead fish in Delaware.

VEGETATION

Spatterdock dominated the open-water areas of the pond both in Belltown Run and Salem Run. A portion of the spatterdock in the lower end of Belltown Run was treated with aquatic herbicide in 2007 to increase the open water area. Swamp loosestrife provided a buffer along much of the undeveloped shoreline. Some rooted submerged aquatic plants grew in the shallow water areas in the upper end of Belltown Run and along the old swimming area. High turbidity (muddiness) and the thick silt layer on the pond bottom have undoubtedly impacted the aquatic plants.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

This pond was leased to New Castle County by the Game and Fish Commissioners in the mid-1950s. It is now jointly managed by New Castle County and the Division of Fish and Wildlife. The County has developed a park on the eastern shoreline and provides recreational facilities including gazebos there. The area is maintained by the County as far as parking, mowing and trash collection. Gasoline motors are prohibited by the County.

The Division of Fish and Wildlife manages the fish populations within the pond, such as the restricted size and bag limits for largemouth bass. Currently, there is a minimum size limit of 15 inches and possession limit of 2 bass/day.

Remove and kill any northern snakehead fish if caught and contact the Division of Fish and Wildlife (302-739-9914 or email: catherine.martin@state.de.us).

Becks Pond 2004 New Castle County, Delaware



0 150 300 Feet

Surface acres 25.6

Maximum depth 7.1'

Legend

- Parking
- Boat ramp
- Emergent vegetation
- Flow

